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His Majesties GRACIOUS SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Thursday* the 21st of *October*, 1680.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

THe several Prorogations I have made, have been very advantageous to Our Neighbours, and very useful to Me; for I have employed that time in making and perfecting an Alliance with the Crown of *Spain*, suitable to that which I had before with the States of the

United Provinces, and they alſo had with *Spain*, conſiſting of mutual Obligations of Succour and Defence.

I have all the Reaſon in the world to believe, that what was ſo much deſired by former Parliaments, muſt needs be very grateful to you now: For though ſome perhaps may wiſh theſe Meaſures had been taken ſooner, yet no man can with reaſon think that it is now too late; for they who deſire to make theſe Alliances, and they who deſire to break them, ſhew themſelves to be of another opinion.

And as theſe are the beſt Meaſures that could be taken for the Safety of *England*, and the Repoſe of Chriſtendom, ſo they cannot fail to attain their end, and to ſpread and improve themſelves farther, if Our Diviſions at home do not render Our Friendſhip leſs conſiderable abroad.

To prevent theſe as much as may be, I think fit to renew to you all the Aſſurances which can be deſired, That nothing ſhall be wanting on My part to give you the fulleſt Satisfaction

your

your Hearts can wish, for the Security of the Protestant Religion, which I am fully resolved to Maintain against all the Conspiracies of Our Enemies, and to Concur with you in any new Remedies which shall be proposed, that may consist with preserving the Succession of the Crown in its due and legal course of Descent.

And in order to this, I do Recommend it to you, to pursue the further Examination of the Plot, with a strict, and an impartial Enquiry. I do not think My Self Safe, nor You neither, till that matter be gone through with: And therefore it will be necessary that the Lords in the *Tower* be brought to their speedy Trial, that Justice may be done.

I need not tell you what danger the City of *Tangier* is in, nor of what Importance it is to Us, to Preserve it. I have with a mighty Charge and Expence sent a very considerable Relief thither. But constantly to Maintain so great a Force as that War will require, and to make those new Works,

and Fortifications, without which the Place will not be long Tenable, amounts to so vast a Sum, that without your Support it will be impossible for Me to undergo it. Therefore I lay the matter plainly before you, and desire your Advice and Assistance.

But that which I value above all the Treasure in the World, and which I am sure will give Me greater Strength and Reputation both at home and abroad, than any Treasure can do, is a perfect Union amongst Our Selves.

Nothing but this can Restore the Kingdom to that Strength and Vigour which it seems to have lost, and Raise Us again to that Consideration which *England* hath usually had.

All *Europe* have their Eyes upon this Assembly, and think their own Happiness or Misery, as well as Ours, will depend upon it.

If we should be so unhappy as to fall into such a Misunderstanding amongst Our selves, as would render Our Friendship unsafe to trust to, it will not be to be wondred at, if Our

Neighbours

Neighbours ſhould begin to take new Reſolutions, and perhaps ſuch as may be Fatal to Us.

Let Us therefore take care that We do not gratifie Our Enemies, and Diſcourage Our Friends by any unſeaſonable Diſputes.

If any ſuch do happen, the World will ſee it was no fault of Mine; for I have done all that was poſſible for Me to do, to keep you in Peace while I live, and to leave you ſo when I die.

But from ſo great Prudence and ſo good Affections as yours, I can fear nothing of this kind; but do relie upon you all, that you will uſe your beſt Endeavours to bring this Parliament to a good and happy Concluſion.

FINIS.